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AUG 10 2007

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a conferencing session, comprising: receiving inputs from a number of participants in a conferencing session; and

determining a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs, the inputs being determined as prominent based upon voice clarity and voice loudness;

combining prominent received inputs into an output packet including a first sub-packet and a second sub-packet, wherein the first sub-packet has a first payload and the second sub-packet has a second payload, the first payload and the second payload including inputs combined from at least a portion of the received inputs from the number of participants, wherein the first payload includes at least one received input that is not included in the second sub-packet; and

configuring the sub-packets in the output packet so that upon receipt of the output packet by a participant, the participant examines the packets and outputs a first examined sub-packet which does not include an indication that the sub-packet includes content received from the participant, the output packet being configured as a UDP packet which encapsulates the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet, the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet configured as RTP packets.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 1, wherein ~~further comprising determining a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs,~~ the determined prominent inputs are utilized to provide the first payload for the first sub-packet and the second payload for the second sub-packet.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 2, wherein inputs are determined as prominent based upon a characteristic including at least one of ~~loudness,~~ signal strength, ~~clarity,~~ and prominence history.

4. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the second sub-packet includes at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet, wherein the at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet includes a next most prominent received input.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet include headers indicating originating participants of the first payload and the second payload.
8. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising transmitting the output packet to at least a portion of the number of participants in the conferencing session utilizing a multicast IP address.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a conferencing session, comprising:
receiving inputs from a number of participants in a conferencing session; ~~and~~
determining a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs, the inputs being determined as prominent based upon voice clarity and voice loudness;
combining prominent ~~received~~ inputs into an output packet including at least two sub-packets, the sub-packets having payloads including mixed received inputs from the number of participants, wherein the payloads of at least two of the sub-packets contain different mixed received inputs; and
configuring the sub-packets in the output packet so that upon receipt of the output packet by a participant, the participant examines the packets and outputs a first examined sub-packet which does not include an indication that the sub-packet includes content received from the participant, the output packet being configured as a UDP packet which encapsulates the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet, the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet configured as RTP packets.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 9, ~~wherein further comprising determining a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs;~~ the determined prominent inputs are utilized to provide the payloads for the sub-packets.
11. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 10, wherein inputs are determined as prominent based upon a characteristic including at least one of ~~loudness~~, signal strength, ~~clarity~~, and prominence history.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein the sub-packets include headers indicating originating participants of the first payload and the second payload.
15. (Original) The method as described in claim 14, wherein the headers are contributing sources (CSRC) headers.
16. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, further comprising transmitting the output packet to at least a portion of the number of participants in the conferencing session utilizing a multicast IP address.
17. (Currently Amended) A conferencing system suitable for providing a conferencing session to a plurality of participants, comprising:
a multipoint conferencing unit communicatively coupled over a packetized connection to a plurality of input/output devices as utilized by a number of participants so as to enable the participants of a conferencing session to interact, wherein the multipoint conferencing unit is configured to
receive inputs from the input/output devices in a conferencing session;

determine a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs, the inputs being determined as prominent based upon voice clarity and voice loudness;

combine prominent received inputs into an output packet including a first sub-packet and a second sub-packet, wherein the first sub-packet has a first payload and the second sub-packet has a second payload, the first payload and the second payload including inputs combined from at least a portion of the received inputs from the number of participant, wherein the first payload includes at least one received input that is not included in the second sub-packet; and

configure the sub-packets in the output packet so that upon receipt of the output packet by a participant, the participant examines the packets and outputs a first examined sub-packet which does not include an indication that the sub-packet includes content received from the participant, the output packet being configured as a UDP packet which encapsulates the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet, the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet configured as RTP packets.

18. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system as described in claim 17, wherein ~~the multipoint conferencing unit further determines a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs,~~ the determined prominent inputs are utilized to provide the first payload for the first sub-packet and the second payload for the second sub-packet.

19. (Currently Amended) The conferencing system as described in claim 18, wherein inputs are determined as prominent based upon a characteristic including at least one of ~~loudness,~~ signal strength, ~~clarity,~~ and prominence history.

20. (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 17, wherein the second sub-packet includes at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet, wherein the at least one received input that is not included in the first sub-packet includes a next most prominent received input.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 17, wherein the first sub-packet and the second sub-packet include headers indicating originating participants of the first payload and the second payload.

24. (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 17, wherein the multipoint conferencing system further transmits the output packet to at least a portion of the number of participants in the conferencing session utilizing a multicast IP address.

25-26. (Canceled)